



TOWN OF WARRENTON

POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

Prior to the recent snow storm, there was an increase in fraudulent solicitations for work in the Town of Warrenton. Most of these incidents involved persons going door-to-door and telling residents that trees on the resident's property were in danger of falling on their home. More often than not, the trees were not a danger and the work did not need to be done. The solicitors often used high-pressure sales tactics, trickery, and deceit, and charged too much money for the work performed. In almost all the cases, they chose elderly victims, those who lived alone, and those with memory problems. In one instance the solicitor returned to the home of an elderly female on back-to-back days and told her that she owed him for work previously performed. The woman suffered from dementia and paid the solicitor multiple times for work that was never performed because she could not remember whether or not the work had been done.

Soliciting is the sale of goods or services door-to-door and is regulated by the Code of the Town of Warrenton. The Town requires that peddlers and solicitors be licensed before they solicit door-to-door. They may not solicit at a residence which posts a "No Peddlers or Solicitors" sign.

A peddler or solicitor must show the license upon request and must leave the premises immediately if asked to leave. Often solicitors will show customers an ID badge or some other document, claiming that they are licensed to perform work in the Town when they are not.

When a solicitor knocks...

1. Ask for his/her solicitor's license;
2. If they do not have a valid license, ask them to leave;
3. Close and lock your door; then
4. Immediately call the Warrenton Police Department (non-emergency) at 540-347-1100 to report the violation. Call 911 if the situation requires that you do so.

No matter what goods or services they are offering, the solicitor is required to have a license.

Solicitor Licenses are issued by the Warrenton Police Department located at 333 Carriage House Lane, Warrenton, Virginia.

The Police Department will perform a background check on the applicant and issue a permit, if appropriate. The permit is valid for one year from date of issue.

If you have any questions about solicitors, peddlers, or the required permit please contact Sergeant T. M. Carter at 540-347-1107 ext. 224 or tcarter@warrentonva.gov.

Louis Battle
Chief of Police